



What We Want to Talk about with You Tonight

What are the Future Possibilities for What's Most Important at the Park?

- 1 Alternative Management Concepts
- 2 Alternative Management Zoning





What are the Future Possibilities for What's Most Important at the Park?





Developing Alternatives

- a sequence of tasks is used to identify, refine, and evaluate alternatives
- begins with "big ideas of what the park should be like"
- the details of each alternative evolve through this process
- impacts of the alternatives are considered along the way
- the public is involved



Alternatives that Must be Considered in the GMP

Continuation of Existing Management Alternative

Range of Reasonable Action Alternatives



Reasonable GMP Action Alternatives should:

- 1 be consistent with the park's purpose and significance
- 2 focus on the park's fundamental and other important resources
- 3 reflect the public interests in the park
- 4 reflect the desirability of providing for a variety of visitor experiences
- 4 fully consider the potential for environmental impacts



Seven Elements to be Included in Each GMP Alternative

1

Overall Management Concept

Management Zones

Specific area
Conditions

5

Boundary Modifications

\$

4

Actions

Approach to
Managing
Visitor
Capacity



What NPS has been Working on So Far and Is Presenting for Public Comment at this Time (Steps 1 and 2)

1

Alternative Management Concept

Management Zones

Specific Area Conditions 5

Boundary Modifications

\$

4

Actions

Approach to
Managing
Visitor
Capacity



Four Concepts that are Open for Public Comment

Continuation of Existing Management Alternative

Range of Reasonable Action Alternatives (3 Under Consideration at New River)



Overall Management Concepts for the Future of the Park

..."The management concept, which is different for each alternative, makes a convincing case for the kind of place the park should be – its overall character in terms of emphasis on particular kinds of resource conditions and associated visitor experiences..."





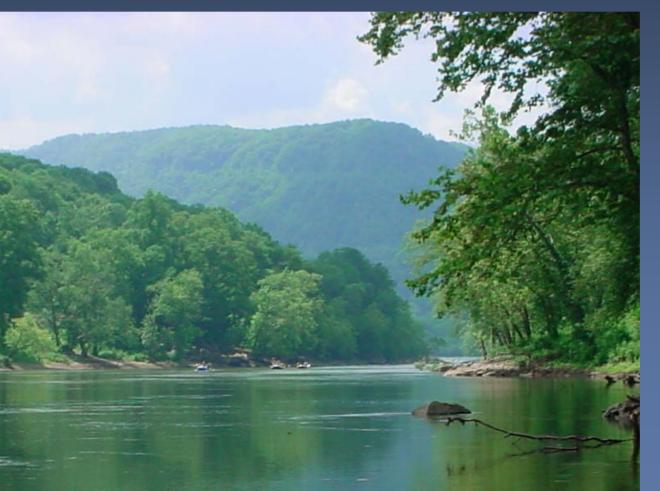
First – Continuation of Existing Management

Continuation of Existing Management Alternative

Range of Reasonable Action Alternatives (3 Under Consideration at New River)



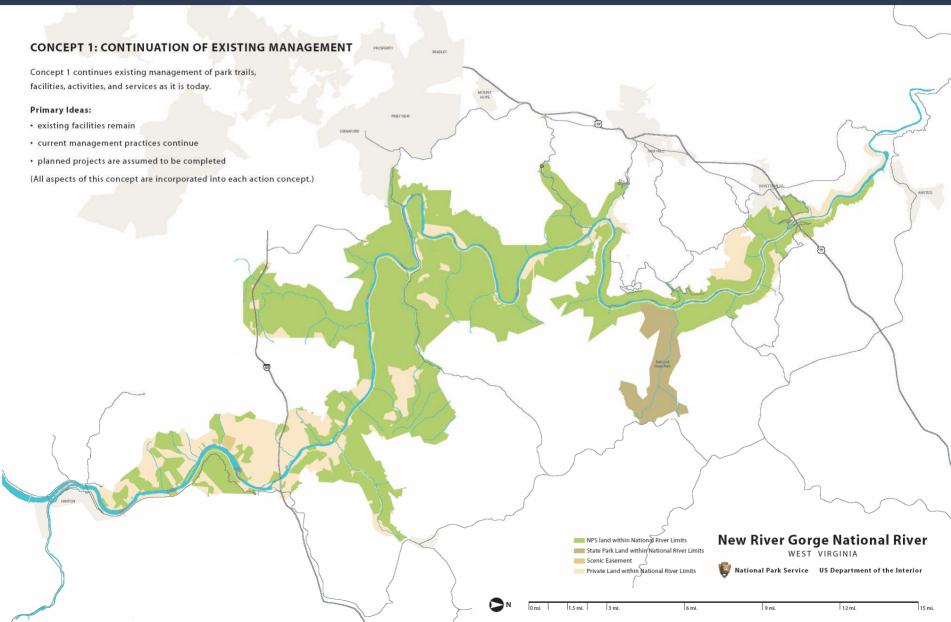
Concept 1: Continuation of Existing Management



- no new big idea for the future character of the park
- no new emphasis on the way resources are managed
- no new emphasis
 on what visitors do
 or experience in the
 park



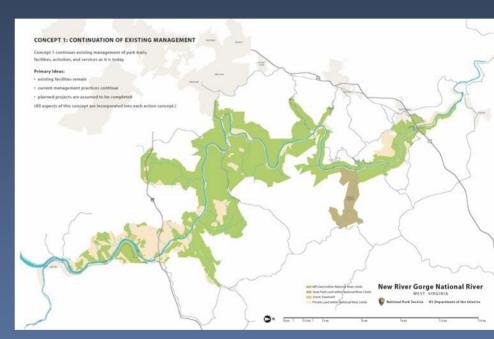
General Management Plan





Concept 1: Continuation of Existing Management

- existing management practices and policies would continue
- existing facilities would remain
 - trails
 - visitor facilities, etc.
- planned projects would be completed
 - Glade Creek Road
 - Cunard Road
 - Burnwood EE and Operations
 - Nuttallburg stabilization
 - New River Parkway, related recreation sites, and land management system
- land acquisition would continue from willing sellers



This is the "no action" alternative required for the EIS.

All elements of this alternative are part of all alternatives.



Next – The Three Action Alternatives

Continuation of Existing Management Alternative

Range of Reasonable Action Alternatives (3 Under Consideration at New River)



Common Threads of the Action Alternatives

- 1 unifying park concept each alternative concept has a unifying concept intended to improve the identity and perception of the park as a <u>national</u> park
- 2 need to recognize that resources are finite we have identified basic concepts that are basically different and illustrated how to achieve an identity for the park with an economy of means
- 3 "big picture" ideas each concept is based upon a big idea they will need to be further developed to reflect the realities of specific sites and specific types of actions in order to be consistent with the park's purpose and significance



Common Elements of the Three Action Alternatives

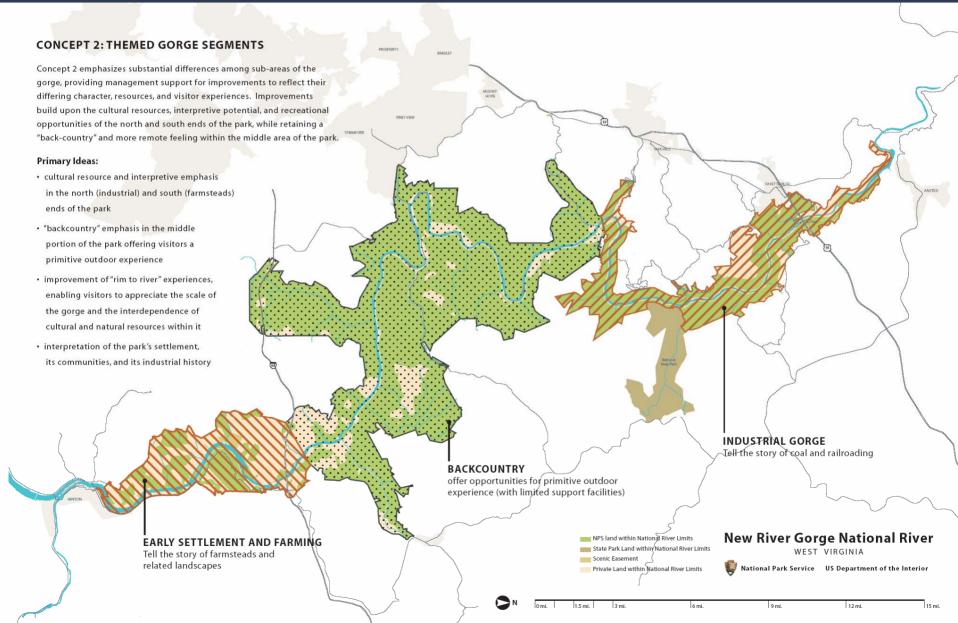
- 1 backcountry forest area the core area of most significant unfragmented forest is incorporated into each alternative
- 2 additional river access points these are suggested at Meadow Creek and Brooks Falls in the southern end of the park
- 3 new campgrounds will be proposed at one or more locations to be determined
- 4 improved park roads new park roads would include Highland Road and Backus Mountain Road



- a "new big idea" as to the future character of the park
- a new emphasis on how resources are managed
- a new emphasis on what visitors do and how they experience the park

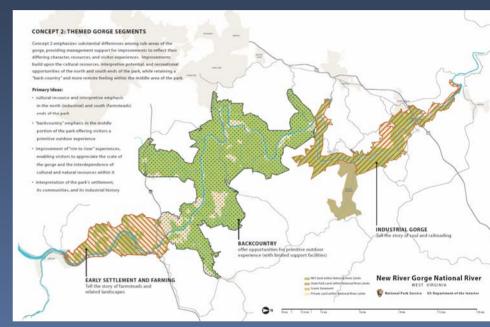








- cultural resource emphasis in the north (industrial) and south (farmsteads) ends of the park
- "backcountry" emphasis in the middle portion of the park offering visitors a primitive outdoor experience
- improvement of "rim to river"
 experiences, enabling visitors to
 appreciate the scale of the gorge and
 the interdependence of cultural and
 natural resources within it
- interpretation of the park's settlement, its communities, and its industrial history

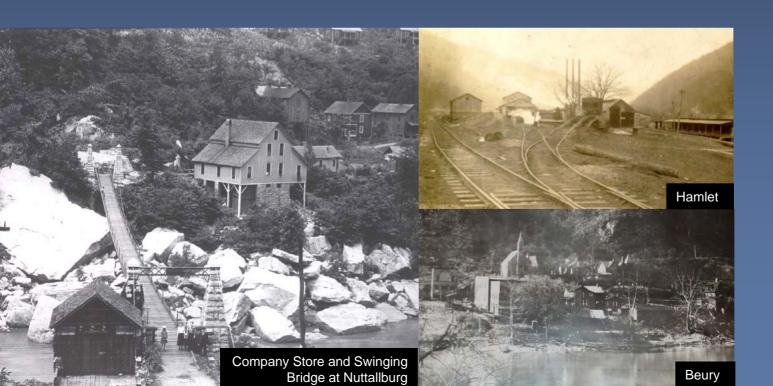


Rim to river examples:

Nuttallburg to Kaymoor connection Trump-Lilly to New River connection



The Industrial Gorge – enhanced access in the lower gorge to historic coal mining, railroading, and lumbering sites – most now in ruins – would offer visitors new experiences and opportunities to learn about the region's history





Early Settlement and Farming – the pastoral landscape of subsistence farms would be restored in the upper gorge offering visitors new experiences and opportunities to learn about the region's agricultural history





Backcountry – the middle gorge would be managed as backcountry where visitors would have primitive experiences with limited development of trails, roads, and camping facilities





Backcountry in the Middle Gorge Viewed from Grandview

Backcountry in the Middle Gorge Viewed from McCreery



Concept 3: Through Park Connector

- a "new big idea" as to the future character of the park
- a new emphasis on how resources are managed
- a new emphasis on what visitors do and how they experience the park

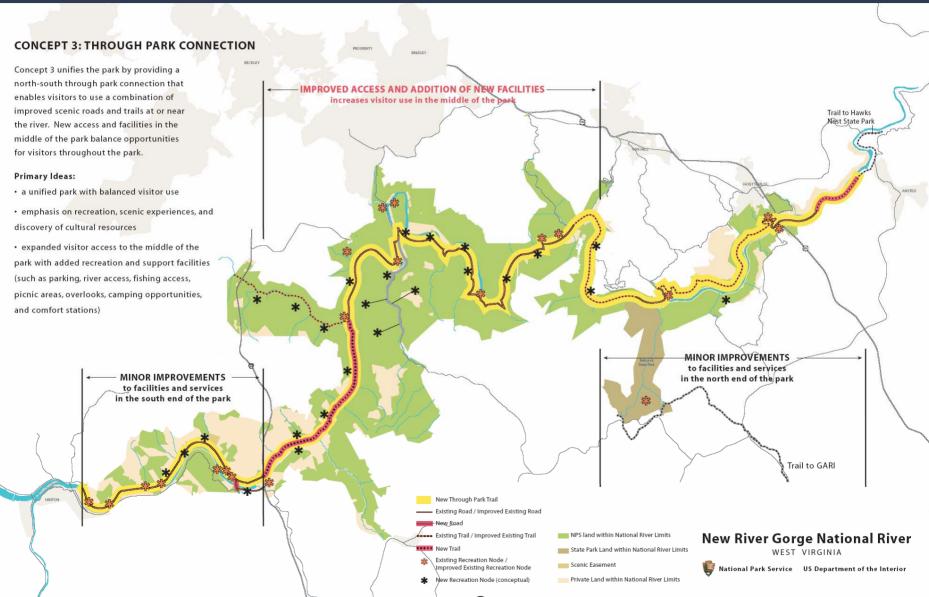




General Management Plan

12 mi.





1.5 mi.

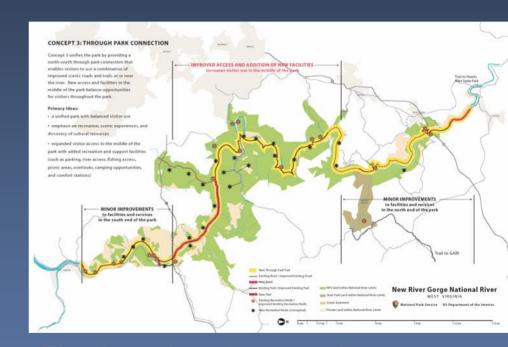
3 mi.

6 mi.



Concept 3: Through Park Connection

- unify the park
- distribute visitors more evenly
- through park connection provides a common point of reference and way of orientation along the river
- emphasis on recreation, scenic experiences, and discovery of cultural resources
- expanded visitor access to the middle of the park with added recreation and support facilities (such as parking, river access, fishing access, picnic areas, overlooks, camping opportunities, and comfort stations)



The through park connection: could be a continuous trail, OR a combination of modes



Concept 3: Through Park Connector

Through Park Connector – travel through the park from Hinton to Ansted would be possible via a combination of roads, restored historic roads and railroad grades, and single-track trails



McKendree Road in the Middle Gorge could become part of the Through Park Connector Restored historic roads and railroad grades would become part of the Through Park Connector

Existing and New Single-Track Trails would become part of the Through Park Connector



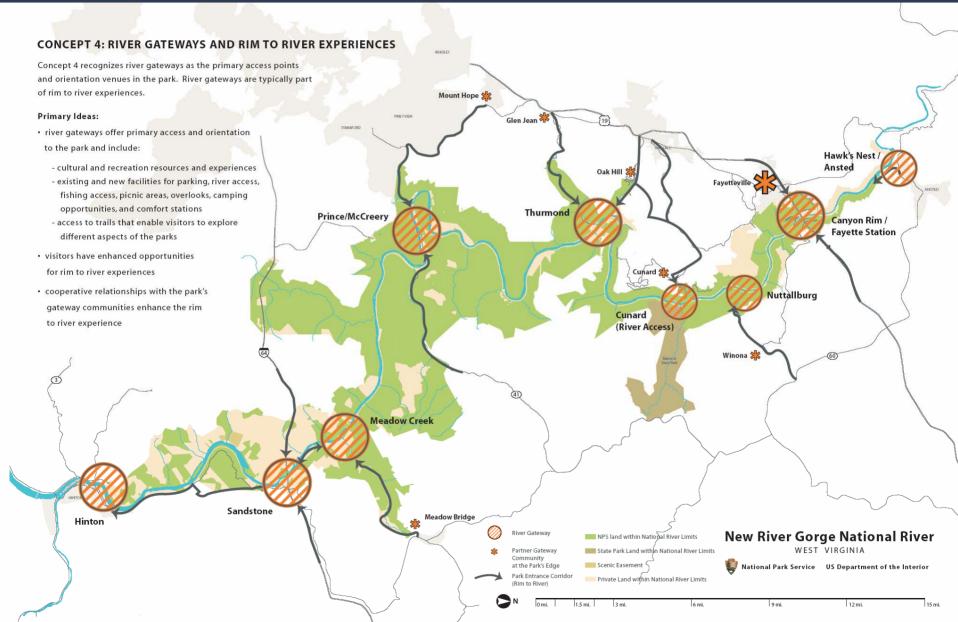
Concept 4: River Gateways and Rim to River Experiences

- a "new big idea" as to the future character of the park
- a new emphasis on how resources are managed
- a new emphasis on what visitors do and how they experience the park





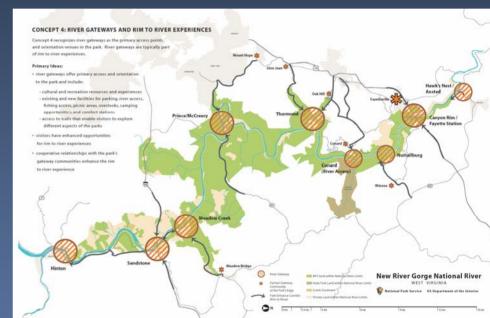
General Management Plan





Concept 4: River Gateways and Rim to River Experiences

- River gateways are typically part of rim to river experiences and offer primary access and orientation to the park and include:
 - cultural, natural, and recreation resources and experiences
 - existing and new facilities for parking, river access, fishing access, picnic areas, overlooks, camping opportunities, and comfort stations
 - access to trails that enable visitors to explore different aspects of the parks
- Cooperative relationships with the park's gateway communities are integral to the rim to river experience

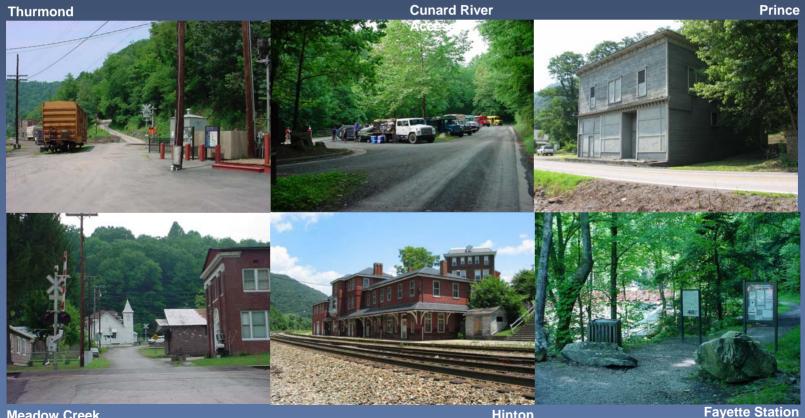


River gateways concentrate visitor services and information along the river, but are based on rim-to-river connections



Concept 4: River Gateways and Rim to River Experiences

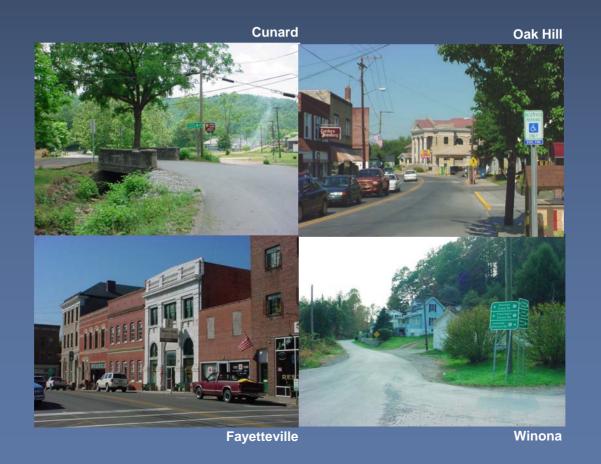
River Gateways (places within the park or where the river enters and leaves the park)



Meadow Creek



Concept 4: River Gateways and Rim to River Experiences Partner Gateway Communities at the Park's Edge





Concept 4: River Gateways and Rim to River Experiences

Rim to River Experiences



- they occur along roads and trails
- collaboration among NPS and its partners makes these experiences possible

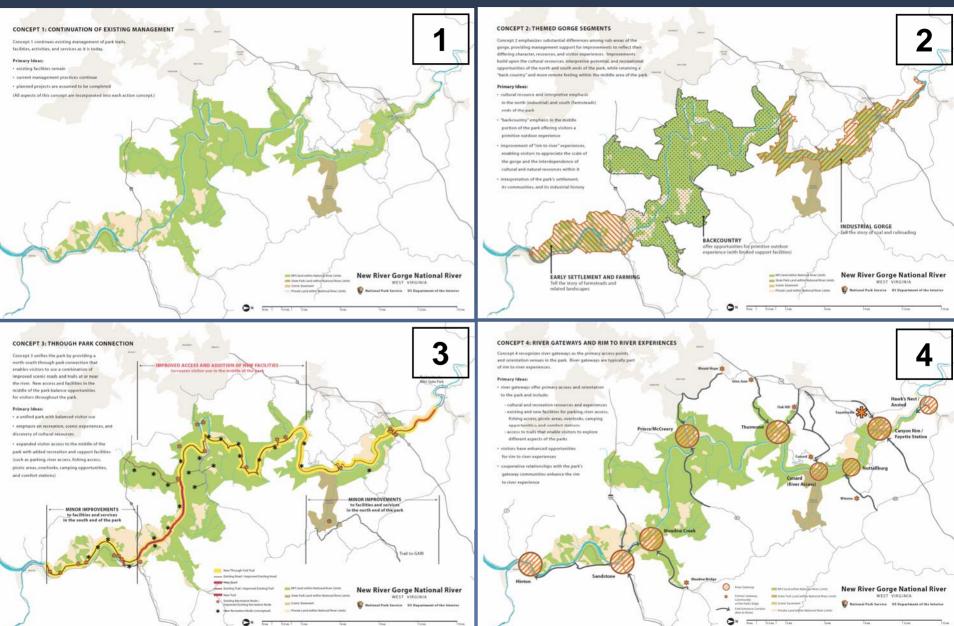


- Trump-Lilly Farm to the New River
- Grandview to Royal
- Beckley to Prince
- Meadow Bridge to Meadow Creek
- Glen Jean to Thurmond





General Management Plan





What We Want to Talk about with You Tonight

What are the Future Possibilities for What's Most Important at the Park?

- 1 Alternative Management Concepts
- 2 Alternative Management Zoning





Management Zoning

Step 1. Define the potentially appropriate management zones for New River Gorge

MANAGEMENT ZONE

1

Desired Conditions Visitor Experiences Facilities **MANAGEMENT ZONE**

2

Desired Conditions Visitor Experiences Facilities **MANAGEMENT ZONE**

3

Desired Conditions
Visitor Experiences
Facilities

MANAGEMENT ZONE

4

Desired Conditions Visitor Experiences Facilities **MANAGEMENT ZONE**

5

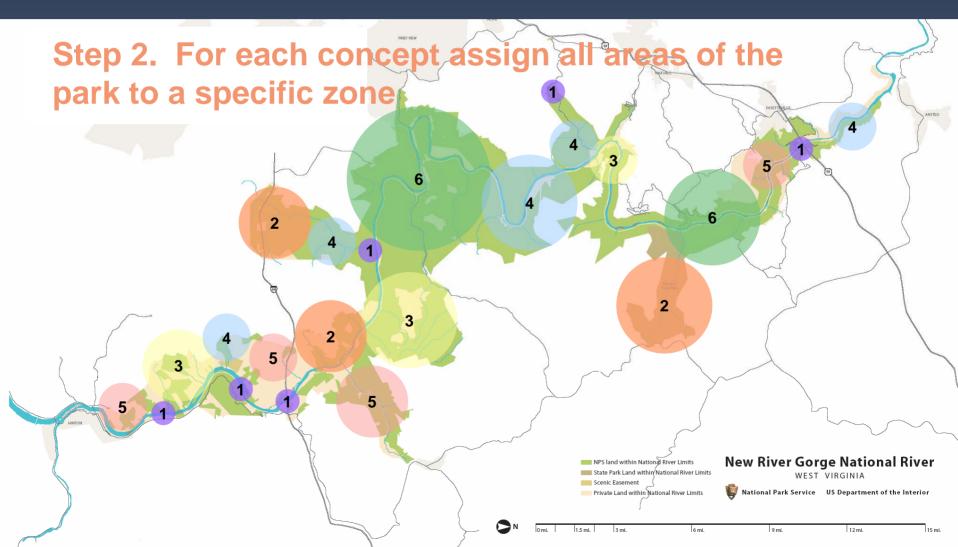
Desired Conditions Visitor Experiences Facilities **MANAGEMENT ZONE**

6

Desired Conditions Visitor Experiences Facilities



Management Zoning





Six Proposed Management Zones for the Park

- 1 Backcountry Forest Zone
- 2 Other Forest Zone
- 3 River / Riparian Zone
- 4 Cultural Landscape Focal Area Zone
- 5 Park Development Zone
- 6 Community Zone



Six Proposed Management Zones for the Park

Zones that Vary Significantly from Concept to Concept

- 1 Backcountry Forest Zone
- 2 Other Forest Zone

Zones that are Similar from Concept to Concept

- 3 River / Riparian Zone
- 4 Cultural Landscape Focal Area Zone
- 5 Park Development Zone
- **6** Community Zone

- Zoning determines how resources will be managed
- Zoning defines what visitor facilities may be provided



Proposed NERI Management Zones

1. Backcountry Forest Zone

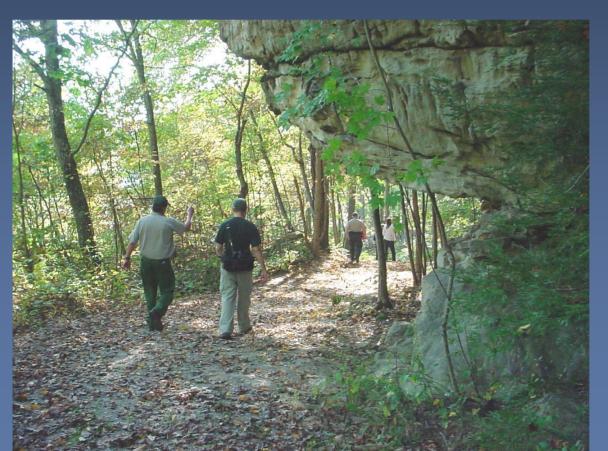


- intact contiguous forest is generally maintained, with negligible site-specific forest fragmentation
- natural processes may be negligibly modified
- native species predominate
- low impact primitive recreation opportunities occur
- visitor use is generally low



Initial Ideas for NERI Management Zones

2. Other Forest Zone



- intact contiguous forest is generally maintained, with minor site-specific forest fragmentation
- natural processes may be minimally modified
- native species predominate
- moderate impact recreation opportunities occur
- visitor use is low to moderate



Initial Ideas for NERI Management Zones

3. River/Riparian Zone



- natural hydrologic processes support a high integrity sustainable aquatic and riparian ecosystem
- negligible modification may occur for visitor access
- water quality conditions are generally good and are static or generally improving
- low impact primitive recreation activities occur
- visitor use is low to high



Initial Ideas for NERI Management Zones

4. Cultural Landscape Focal Area



- historic buildings, structures and landscape are preserved, made readily visible and accessible
- visitor use is moderate to high



NERI Management Zones

5. Park Development Zone



- active management occurs to accommodate intense visitor use for visitor services and river access
- developed areas are convenient and accessible
- diverse recreation opportunities occur
- visitor use is moderate to high



NERI Management Zones

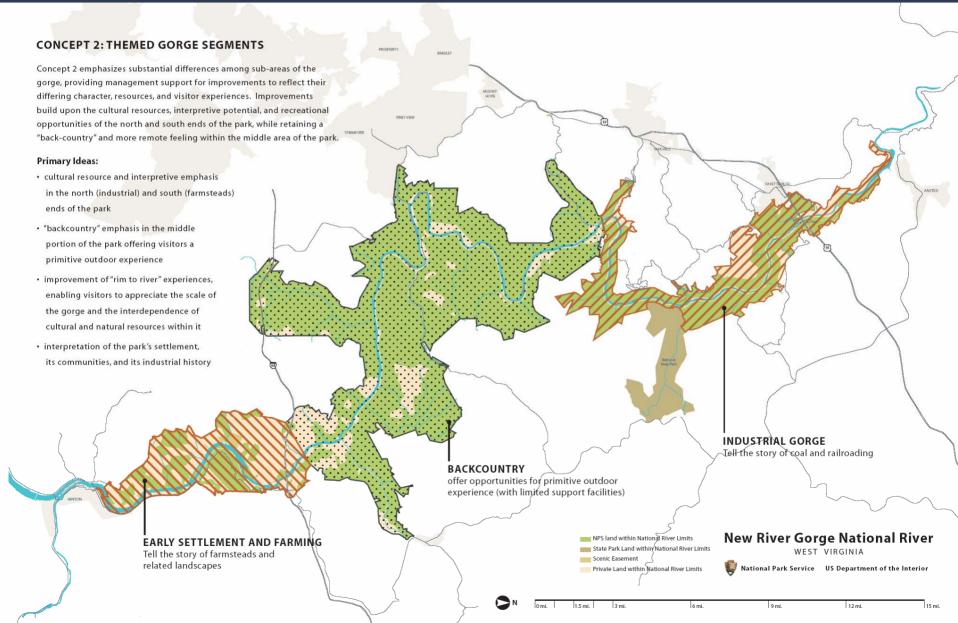
6. Community Zone



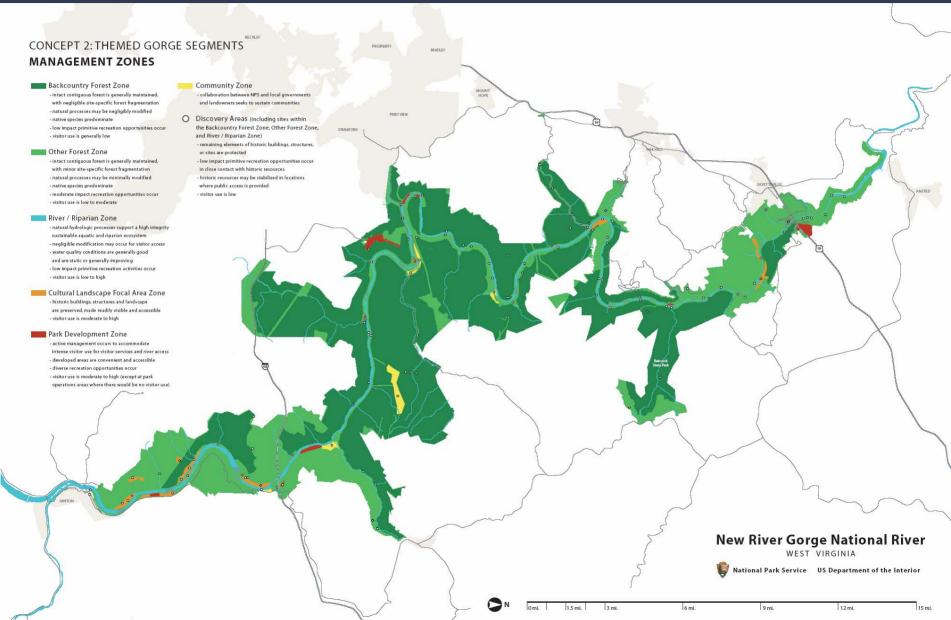
Overall Zone Conditions

 collaboration between NPS and local governments and landowners seeks to sustain communities



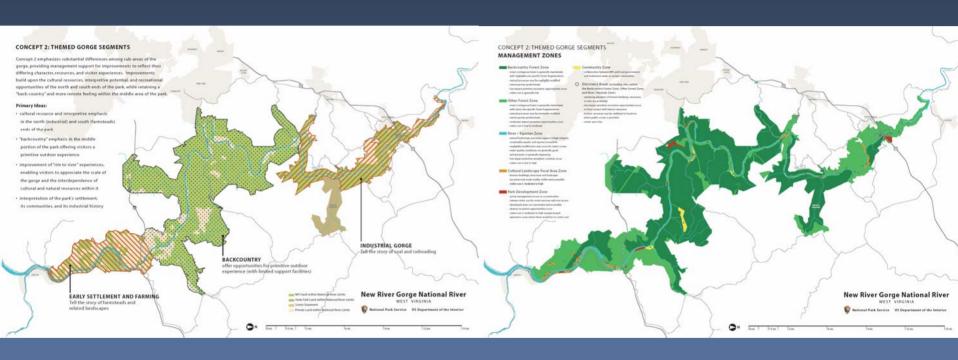






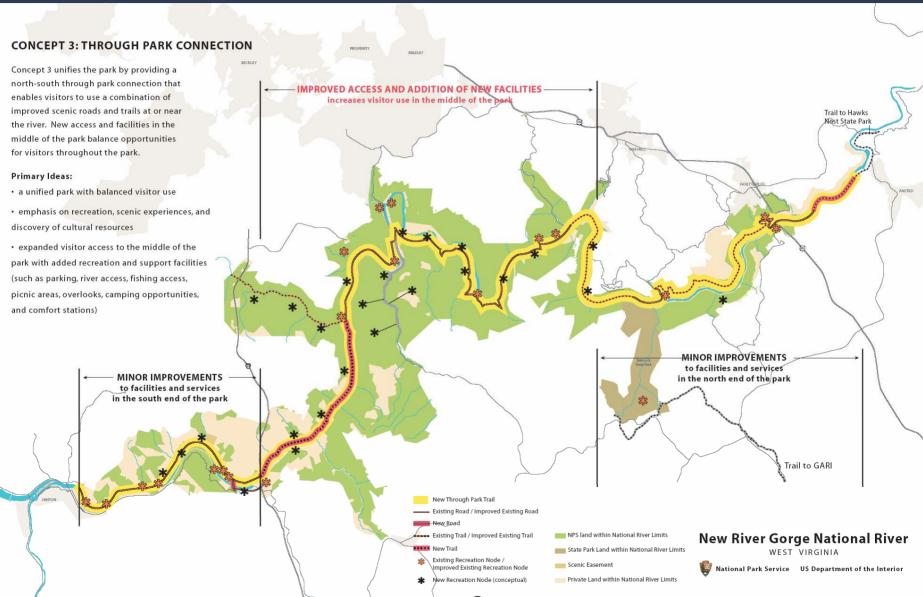


Alternative 2 – Concept and Management Zones



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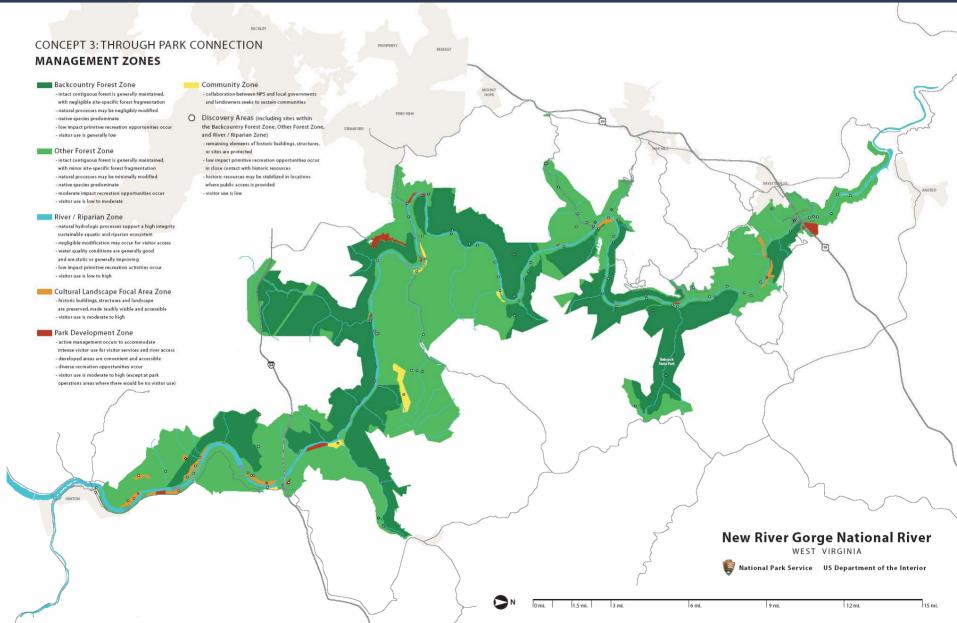


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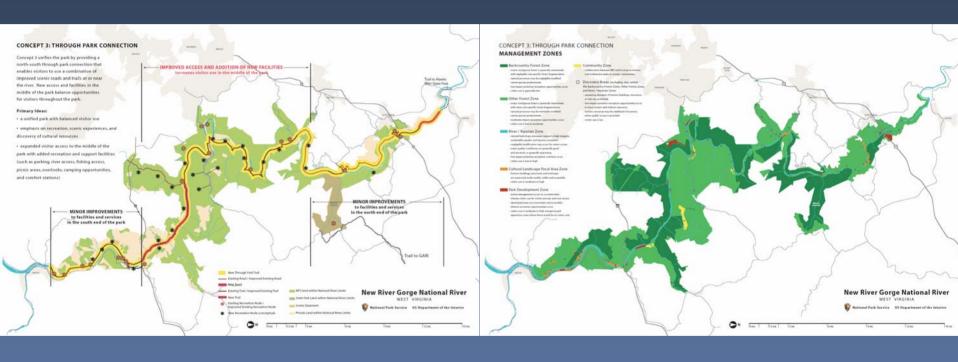
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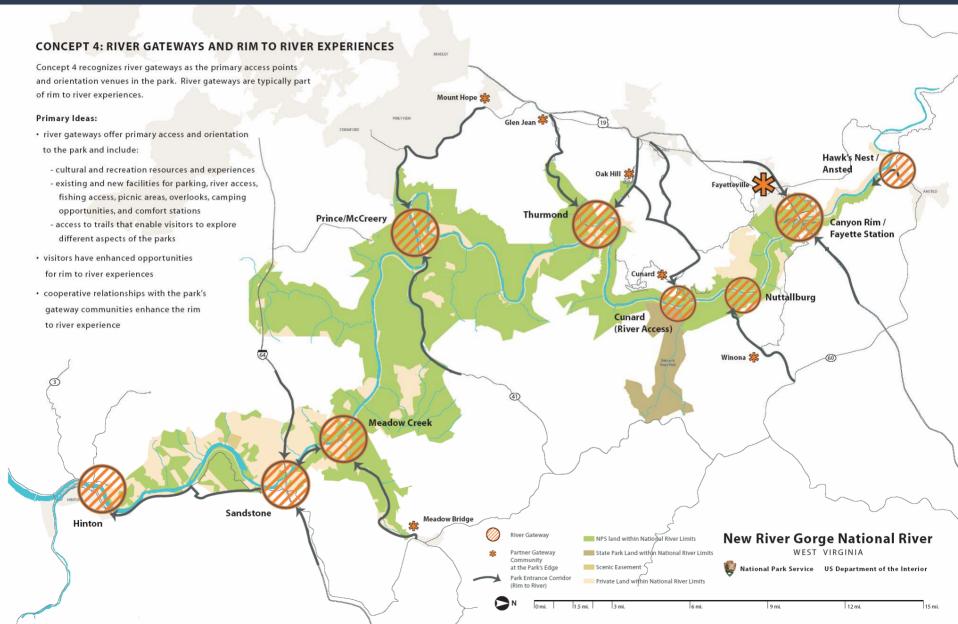




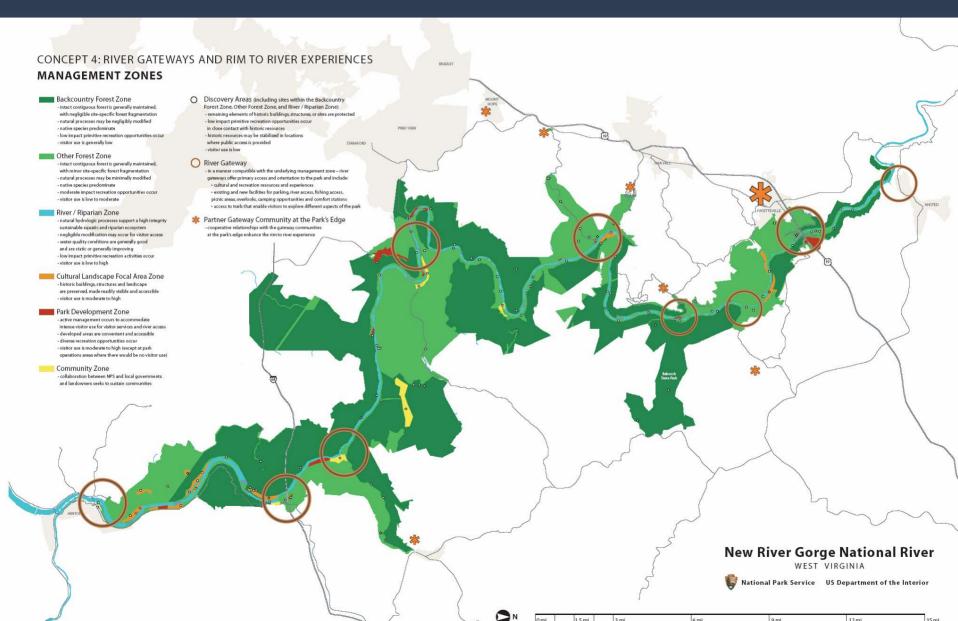
Alternative 3 – Concept and Management Zones





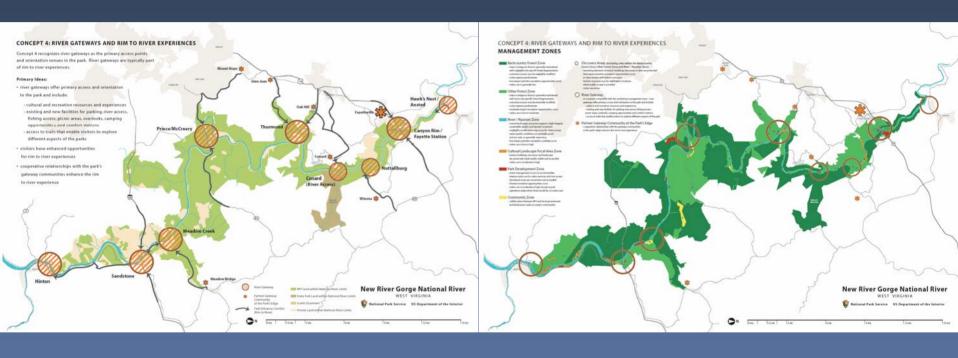




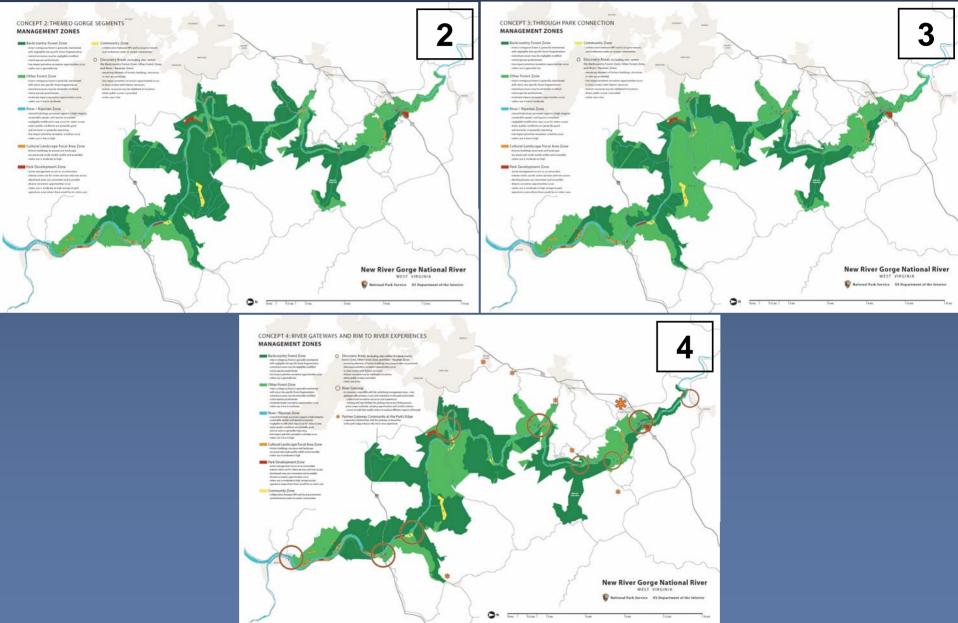




Alternative 4 – Concept and Management Zones









Comparison of Initial Concepts

	Concept 1 Continuation of Existing Management	Concept 2 Themed Gorge Segments	Concept 3 Through Park Connection	Concept 4 River Gateways & Rim to River Experiences
New Idea and Emphasis	none	cultural and interpretive focus in north and south	scenic road and trail connections that connect the park	river gateways and connections to and from them
Way to Unify the Park & Improve Its Image	not much improvement	brand three very different segments	emphasis on through route and river	improved services and identity at gateways
Visitor Experience	varied quality	reflects theme of each segment, with very different intensity of use for each	river and trail emphasis	rim to river emphasis
Focus of Visitor Activities	vary	most intense at north and south segments	distributed throughout the length of the park	concentrated at gateways



New River Gorge GMP Conceptual Alternatives

Please tell us what you think by answering some or all of these questions:

- Which alternative (or parts of different alternatives) best accomplishes your vision for New River Gorge National River? What is it about each of these that appeals to you?
- Which alternative would enable you to have the experiences you would like to have in the park?
 What are those experiences?
- Which alternative best protects the park's significant natural resources and enables telling stories of the park's natural history? Why?
- Which alternative best protects the park's significant cultural resources and enables telling stories of the park's human history? Why?
- On what types of management actions should the NPS concentrate its efforts and resources?
 (Think about the issues discussed in our meetings and in Newsletter 1 that relate to protecting natural, cultural, and scenic resources, as well as providing visitor facilities.)
- How can the NPS best work together with the park's gateway communities?
- How would a through park trail benefit visitors?
- Are there other comments you would like to make about these concepts?

Answer these questions by doing the following:

- Minimize this document (so you can use it as a reference for the questions)
- Click on "Comment on Document"
- Complete the "Comment Form"